

there is confusion in the telecommunications industry. Now, that is changing though and I think we all know it is changing since that federal order of Judge Green that provided for a deregulation of telecommunications in the nation and that opportunity is closing. People are beginning to understand how the phone regulation system is working. Now, it is my belief that they would have a difficult, a much more difficult time getting this enacted next year. So why is it that all the other 49 states in the nation haven't enacted this kind of legislation? Why is Nebraska the only state in the nation that is considering passage, or I should say, going to pass, unfortunately, legislation that provides for complete deregulation? Iowa hasn't provided for complete deregulation. Wyoming hasn't. New York hasn't. The progressive State of California hasn't even provided for it. Florida hasn't. Texas hasn't. But in Nebraska we feel that it is important, or some people do. I don't think there has been any legitimate reasons to provide for deregulation, complete deregulation. I agree with the perspective of providing deregulation for intrastate long distance. As Senator Schmit has said over and over again, when this bill was originally introduced, this was the aim to provide for this deregulation for intrastate just as it is calling from Nebraska to Iowa. But the bill has gone well beyond that. I would like to close with reiterating one point and that is...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR ABBODD: ...will we have a situation where the phone company will look out for the best interests of the public? I cited to you figures earlier which stated that the Public Service Commission since 7-25-78 has had a number of different proposals presented before them as the Public Service Commission. In that time there has been a request of over \$127 million of requests that Northwestern Bell has requested, that they, in good faith, said that they needed. They said, we have to have this money in order to have good services to the customers in the State of Nebraska or in their particular zone. It was good faith. I attended some of the hearings. They really did feel that they needed this money and they told the Public Service Commission that they really needed this money. And I believe that they really do believe that they needed this money. Well, how much did the Public Service Commission actually give them during this period? A little over \$55 million.